

THE COURIER

Quarterly Publication of the Bethel Historical Society's Regional History Center
Volume 24, Number 2 (2000)

ERNEST M. SKINNER

In Bethel's Woodland Cemetery, there exists not far from the Colonial Revival tomb, the grave of Ernest M. Skinner, one of America's leading organ makers whose fame spread across the Atlantic. Skinner married a Bethel woman, Mabel Hastings, in 1893 at the Hastings family homestead on Broad Street, and lies near the Hastings family lot with her.

Ernest Martin Skinner was born in Clarion, PA, the son of touring concert singers Washington and Alice Skinner. Washington Martin Skinner was born in 1836 in Lowell, MA and his wife Alice Frances Brett was born in 1844 in Houlton, ME. They were married in Marlboro, MA in 1864; Ernest appeared in 1866 as their first child. Another son, Harry Clifford Skinner, was born two years later in Craftsbury, VT, where his parents were apparently on another concert tour.

From an early age, Skinner showed a strong interest in the production of sounds. In fact he tried to make music from almost anything his hands touched.

When Ernest was seven, his parents gave up their nomadic musical life and settled down in Taunton, MA, presumably so the two sons could obtain their schooling.

It was Ernest's father who fostered his interest in music through the music company he organized in Taunton. Here he attended rehearsals and performances of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, which stimulated his consuming interest in music and became the motivating force for his creative spirit.

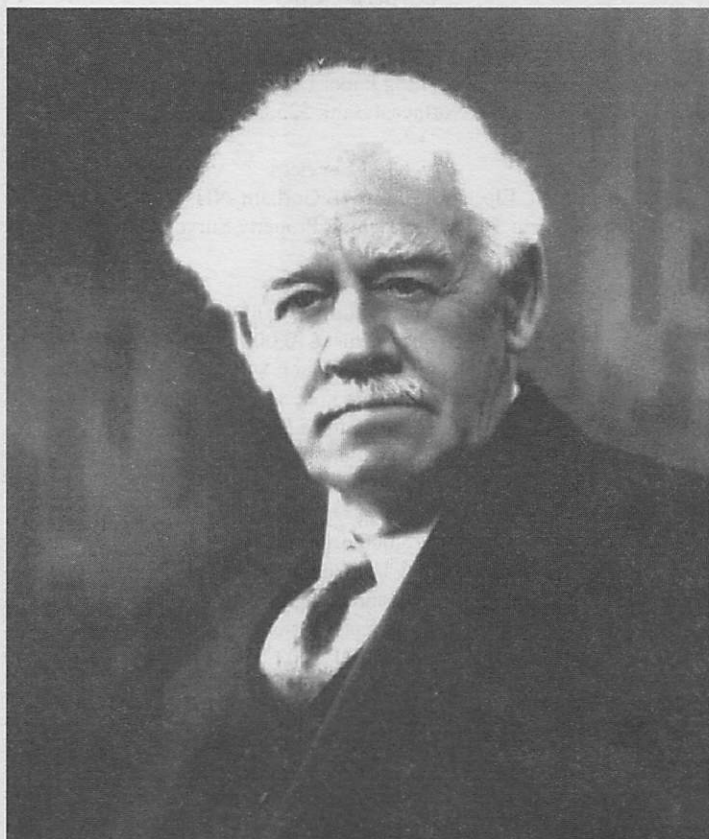
When Ernest was a teenager, the family moved to West Somerville, MA, where he attended high school for approximately six months. In his *Autobiography* he says that the reason for leaving his schooling was his inability to understand Latin, but Dorothy Holden in her biography, *The Life and Work of Ernest M. Skinner*, attributes it to the fact that the family fortunes declined precipitously and Ernest was obliged to assist in supporting the family.

It was during this time that Ernest saw his first pipe organ and later got a job as a bellows pumper at fifteen cents per hour. He also fixed his first organ at this early stage of life.

Frustrated by his lack of finding his niche during these years, Ernest became a "shop boy" for George H. Ryder, a small organ builder located in Reading, MA. It was here that Ernest's interest in organs began to be take shape.

After four years here, Ernest was summarily fired one morning. This departure proved fortuitous for it soon meant that he would work for Jesse Woodbury of Boston briefly and then the George S. Hutchings Organ Company from 1889 to 1901. In 1898, he traveled abroad to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and France to learn all he could from European organ builders.

In 1901, he decided to strike out on his own by developing his dream of a more expressive pipe organ by exploiting all the benefits to be gained by the "new" electro-pneumatic action. He either developed or greatly refined entirely new families of stops for the



Ernest Martin Skinner (1866-1960)

pipe organ. Skinner's strengths were not as a businessman, but as a creator of rich organ sounds. He frequently spent more on his organs than he charged for them and occasionally delivered them behind schedule. His immaculate workmanship, clever innovations, and magnificent tone, however, consistently attracted more customers.

His fortunes took a turn for the better in 1919 when the millionaire chemist and organ aficionado, Arthur Hudson Marks (1874-1939), bought the controlling interest in the company, reorganized, streamlined, and capitalized the entity as the Skinner Organ Company. Skinner made a trip in the 1920s to the factory of Henry Willis III in England to study new ideas in the tonal designs of organs. When he returned home, he incorporated many of these ideas into his organ building.

In 1927, G. Donald Harrison, an outstanding employee of Henry Willis', was hired by Marks to help Skinner improve the tonal design of his organ. Skinner welcomed the younger man into his company, but the good relations did not endure. In 1930, tensions between the two men were rife. The stock market crash the previous year did little for the company fortunes as well; sales fell from \$1.4 million in 1928 to only \$604,000 in 1931.

(continued on page 4)



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of 20 September 2000, over \$525,000 had been raised from cash, stock, gifts, pledges, grants, and challenges from over 400 donors.

Corporate Gifts

Exxon \$1000

Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC \$5000

Mead Publishing Paper Division \$4000

Northeast Bank \$25,00

In-Kind Services

Lee F. Carroll, Electrical Engineer, Gorham, NH, Design \$1904

Points North Surveying, Bethel, Property Survey \$392.50

Foundation Grants

Betterment Fund \$75,000

Bingham Trust \$10,000

Davis Family Foundation \$40,000

Dean Fisher Charitable Foundation \$15,000

Libra Foundation \$10,000

Simmons Foundation \$7,500

Room Naming Opportunities

(\$25,000 or more)

Joan Edwards St. Clair Goodhew, Atlanta GA

Traditional Crafts Room in Honor of Florence Bickford Hastings

Dr. John and Jane Champe Payne, Baltimore, MD

Robert and Janet Spidell, San Clemente, CA

Henry and Patricia Stewart, Bryant Pond

Roxanne Twitchell Sly, Brooklin

Michael S. Stowell, Palm Coast, FL

Mary Valentine/Richard Valentine, Bethel

Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True Associates

(Donors of \$10,000 or more)

Walter and Carolyn Hatch, Bethel

Enoch Foster Partners

(Donors of \$5000 to \$9999)

Anonymous (2)

Robert Goodwin, Norway

Richard and Sally Taylor, Bethel

Edmond and Sudie Vachon, Bethel

Agnes Hastings Straw Circle

(Donors of \$2500 to \$4999)

Kenneth and Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel

Dexter and Janet Stowell, Bethel

Dr. William B. Lapham Honor Society

(Donors of \$1000 to \$2499)

Anonymous (2)

Allen and Mary Alice Hastings Bancroft, Paris

Alvin and Lee Barth, Bethel

Rotary Club in Honor of John Head and Roger Conant

Ted and Kitty Chadbourne, Cumberland Center

Stephen and Lynda Chandler, Brunswick

Geoffrey and Martha Fuller Clark, Portsmouth, NH

Howard and Virginia Cole

Dana and Barbara Douglass, Bethel

Colwyn and Judy Haskell, Bethel
William and Susan Herlihy, Newry
Richard and Lorrie Hoeh, Bethel
Jane and Richard Hosterman, West Bethel
Rep. Arlan and Eleanor Jodrey, Bethel
Rebecca Kendall, Bethel
Alden and Mabel Kennett, Bethel
Thomas H. Mitchell, Culver City, CA
Helen Morton, Newry
George and Danna Nickerson, Bethel
Dean and Priscella Walker, Bethel
Stephen and Margaret Wight, Newry

21st Century Club

(Donors of \$999 in honor of the Society's occupancy of the Robinson House in 1999)

Stanley R. Howe, Bethel

Robert Chapman Founders

(Donors of \$500 to \$998)

Anonymous (1)

Barbara H. Brown, South Paris

Lincoln and Suzanne Fiske, Bethel

John and Julia Fox, West Newton, MA

Ronald and Marguerite Kendall, Bethel

Robert and Virginia Keniston, Bethel

William H. Kieffer, III, Bethel

Roy Kilgore, Guadalupe, CA

John and Margaret King, Lakeland, FL

Persis Post, Bethel

Martin Silver, Norway

Donald and Constance Vautour, Waterboro

Friends of the Robinson House

(Donors Up to \$499)

Robert Albota, Ottawa, Ontario; John Amann, New York, NY; Esther Anderson, Brockton, MA; Ernest and Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Jean Anton, Greenwood; Roberta Arbree, Randolph, NH; M/M James Aumen, Warren, NJ; Elizabeth Bane, Bethel; Romeo and Jo Baker, Newry; Bradley and Judith Barker, Bethel; Jean Barker, Delray, FL; Donald and Jan Barnhart, San Mateo, CA; M/M Robert Barrell, Jr., West Boylston, MA; John and Mary Beth Bayerlein, Bethel; D.A. Bean Enterprises, Bethel; Evelyn T. Bean, Bryant Pond; Kathleen Bean, Bryant Pond; Bessie Bennett, Bethel; Randall H. Bennett, Bethel; Capt. Richard and Frances Bernier, Bethel; Alfred Bianchi, Shrewsbury, MA; Allyn Billings, Brattleboro, VT; Anne Booske, Lancaster, PA; Roberta D. Bordano, Granby, CT; A. W. and Florine Bowden, Bethel; Donald and Eleanor Brooks, Bethel; Arlene Brown, Bethel; Armenthia Brown, Owings Mills, MD; Caroline Brown, Colorado Springs, CO; Gurdon S. Buck, Watertown, MA; Norma Buck, Oxford; Lois Burgess, Bethel; Donald and Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Catherine Canavan, Cool, CA; William and Sarah Carignan, Rumford Center; Frances Carleton, Dixfield; Ina Carey, Framingham, MA; Irving Carver, White Bear Lake, MN; Ernest and Beverly Cassara, Cambridge, MA; Roberta Chandler, Lovell; Ethel Chapman, West Bethel; Rosalind Chapman, Bethel; Al and Doris Chiaradonna, North Reading, MA; Donald M. Christie, Jr., M.D., Gray; Norman and Sylvia Clanton, Bethel; Honorable Susan Collins, Bangor; Ben B. Conant, South Paris; Stanley Coolidge, Oxford; David Cordella, Shrewsbury, MA; Allen and Jacqueline Cressy, Bethel; Eva Conroy, Auburn; Clayton and Lola Crockett, Bethel; Jack and Sue Cross, Bethel; Richard and Grace Douglass, Bethel; Richard and Carole Duplessis, Bethel; Richard C. Durnin, Norway; Kathryn Eames, Cape Elizabeth; Margaret Edwards, Upton; Robert and Mary Eichel, Bethel; Howard and Alice Fales, West Redding, CT; Raymond Fales, Waitsfield, VT; Donald and Ruth Feeney, Bethel; Jayne Fife, Salt Lake City, UT; Norman and Barbara

Ferguson, Hanover; Alan Fraser, Bethel; Doris Fraser, Bethel; Marion Gates, Ann Arbor, MI; Shirley and Marilyn Gilbert, West Bethel; Goodwin's Insurance, Norway; Gordon and Mary Gillies, Bethel; Dr. and Mrs. Glascock, Cedar Falls, IA; Wilma Gorman, Bethel; William and Marguerite Graham, Bethel; Anne Grasso, Providence, RI; Gray Marketing Company, Bethel; Jean Grover, Bethel; Mona Grover, Bethel; Rupert and Suzanne Grover, Norway; Frances Harding, Bethel; Carolyn and Tom Harrison, Portland; Stephen and Susan Hart, Billerica, MA; John Jr. and Jean Hartranf, Rumford; Florence Hastings, Bethel; William and Virginia Hastings, Shelburne, NH; Michael and Leslie Hathaway, Conway, NH; Barbara Healy, Waterville; Clayton and Helen Heath, Norway; Pamela S. Heydon, Wilton, CT; Scott Heydon, Shaker Heights, OH; Elizabeth Hines, Brooklin; Ruth Holmes, Bryant Pond; Adolf U. Honkala, Midlothian, VA; Kathy McLeod Hooke, Bethel; Allan Howe, Bethel; Geraldine Howe, Bethel; John Gregory Howe, Gettysburg, PA; Roland and Sally Huston, Rye, NH; Lee and Virginia Hutchins, Bethel; Vernon Ingraham, Wareham, MA; Dana and Mildred Johnson, Bethel; Charlotte K. Johnson, Westford, MA; Diane Jones, Fryeburg; Royden and Alice Keddy, Gorham; Ardith A. Kelly, Salinas, CA; Earlon and Mary Keniston, Bethel; Lois Kilroy, Bethel; Edie Ellen Kimball, Newburyport, MA; John King, Lakeland, FL; John H. King, Camden; Jon Kirssin, Mechanicsburg, PA; John Kubach, Bethel; Daisy LeClair, Bethel; Will and Mary Leland, Berkeley Heights, NJ; Fern Lincoln, Reading, PA; Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Nancy Lincoln, Bethel; James Locke, Topeka, KS; Elizabeth Lord, Bethel; Michael Lovejoy, Norway; Arlene Lowell, Bethel; Frank and Beatrice Lowell, Newry; Robert Lowell, Newry; M/M Peter Lunder, The Lunder Foundation, Waterville; Blake and Rachael MacKay, Bethel; James and Ethel Mann, Lunenburg, MA; Mary March, Bridgton; Lynn Mason-Courtney, Bethel; Geneva McCoy, Bethel; Frances McKnight, Auburn; Mina McMillin, Bethel; Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel; Leonard E. and Renee Minsky Charitable Trust, Bangor; Marilyn R. Noyes Mollicone, Augusta; Joann C. Mooney, London, UK; Blaine Moores, Acton; Nancy Morris, Bethel; Herbert H. Morton III, Andover, MA; Schuyler and Winifred Mott, Paris; Ellen Mugar, Cape Elizabeth; James and Lucia Owen, Stoneham; Jean Owen, Bethel; Marvin and Tineka Ouwinga, Bethel; Richard and Wendy Penley, Bethel; Lillian Perkins, Bethel; Duane and Gail Preble, Kennebunkport; Betty Barlow Prescott, Bangor; Eleanor Pugliese, Bethel; Norman and Joan Putnam, Bryant Pond; Joan Ramsey, Groveton, NH; Dr. David Richards, Skowhegan; Beatrice Ritter, Torrington, CT; John and Lisa Robbins, Richmond; Phyllis Roberts, Newcastle; Catherine Robie, Ipswich, MA; Dr. Ned Robertson, Beachwood, OH; Lorraine Rodak, Hackensack, NJ; Edith Rowe, Bethel; Peter and Elsie Seames, Greenwood; John C. Schneider, Lynnfield, MA; Arthur and Betty Ann Smith, Newburyport, MA; Ann Stanley, Hackensack, NJ; Donald R. Stanley, South Portland; Edward Stanley, Hackensack, NJ; Warren Stearns, Hanover; Doris Stengel, Wayne, NJ; Joan Thuston Peabody Stewart, Portland; Nancy Stickney, North Salem, NH; Susan Strange, Potomac, MD; Persis Suddeth, Bowie, MD; Bertha Stevens, Bethel; Mary Telfer, Median, PA; Murray and Constance Thurston, Bethel; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Bethel; Samuel and Nan Timberlake, Bethel; Don and Peggy Tobin, Bandera, TX; Dr. John and Margaret Trinward, North Waterford; Jaquelyn Van Leuven, Bethel; Margaret S. Ward, Sun City Center, FL; Mary Wheeler, Bethel; Elizabeth Delano Whiteman, Philadelphia, PA; Owen and Sue Wight, Newry; Ruth Wight, Bethel; Willard and Sylvia Wight, Newry; John Wiley, Hopewell, NY; Priscilla Wiley, Woodbury, CT; Ronald Willard, Springfield, VA; Eleanor Wilson, Bedford, MA; Raymond and Eleanor York, Fayetteville, NC; Archie and Jane Young, Bethel.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Alan S. and June F. Abbott, Bethel
 Allen D. and Mary-Alice H. Bancroft, Paris
 Lee M. Barth, Bethel
 Peter A. and Mary-Ellen Gartner, Bryant Pond

ROBINSON HOUSE

In May 1998, the Society acquired the historic former Elms property for operations as an addition to its facilities. Named for the original owner, O'Neil W. Robinson (1797-1867) and adjacent to the headquarters for the last twenty-five years, the Dr. Moses Mason House, the building became known officially as the Robinson House. Once renovations are completed, critically needed space for exhibits, expanded museum shop and craft operations, more adequate research facilities and collection storage as well as an education room for students of all ages will be among the results of this expansion. This project also includes an endowment phase, which when completed will allow the Society to support more comprehensively its Regional History Center with enhanced programming, conferences, publications, exhibits, lectures, etc. relating to Northern New England. Contributions are welcomed to make this all happen and may be made in a number of ways through cash, securities, stock, etc. For further information, please call the Society at (207) 824-2908 or (800) 834-2910 or write to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012 or e-mail info@bethelhistorical.org.

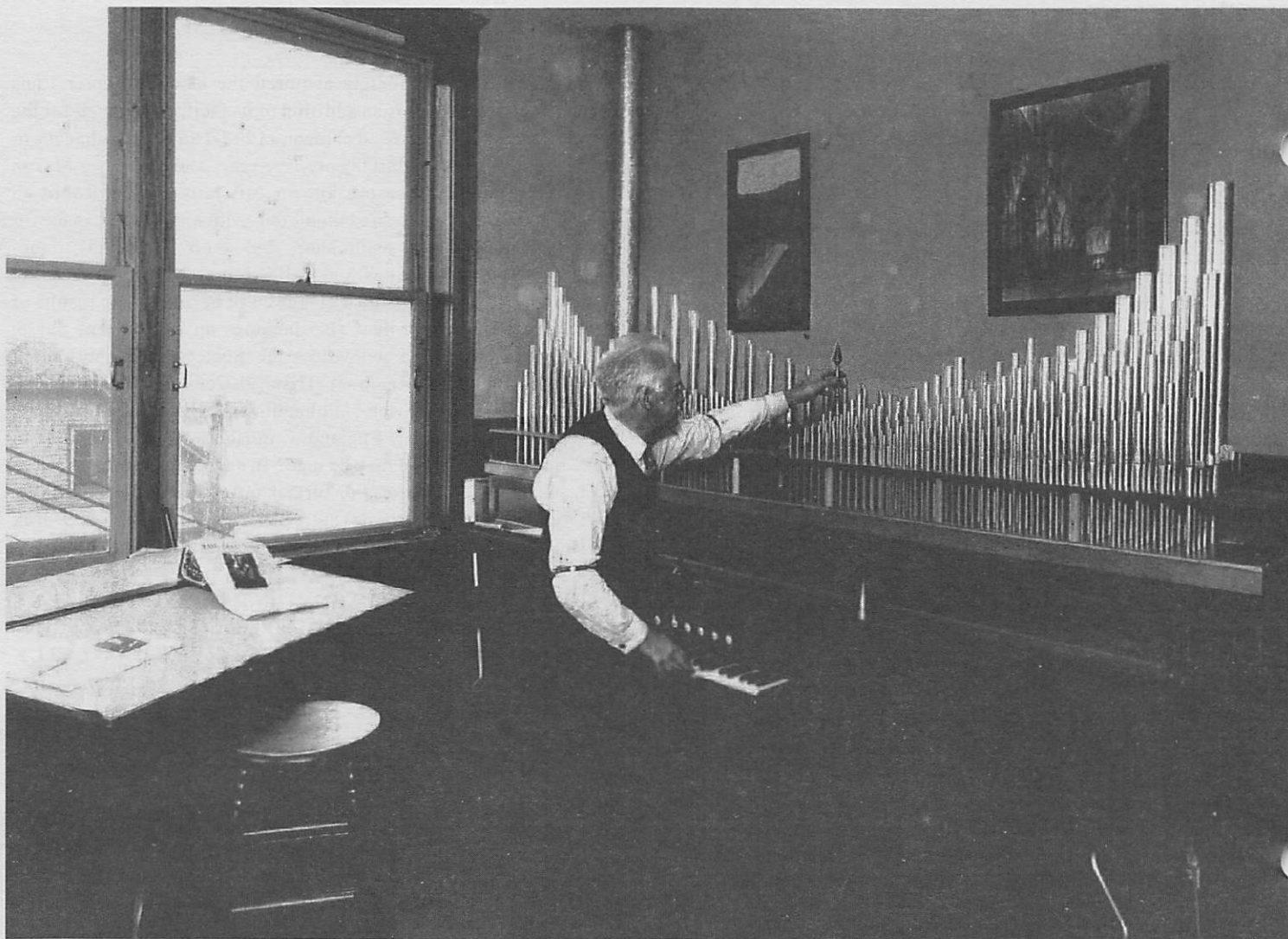
**JOIN THOSE LISTED ABOVE IN HELPING TO SECURE
 THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY!
 PLEASE MAKE YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE
 CONTRIBUTION TODAY!**

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making your gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made at any time to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012



Helen Pike, daughter of the well-known author, Robert Pike, who wrote two best selling regional books, TALL TREES, TOUGH MEN and SPIKED BOOTS, was the featured speaker following the log driver's bean supper at Sudbury Canada Days. She told logging stories, recalled her father's work with several humorous stories, and sang some loggers' songs.



Ernest M. Skinner voicing organ pipes at his factory on Sidney Street in Dorchester, MA.

(Skinner, from page 1)

Skinner sold his stock in the company in 1930 and planned to start a rival organ building firm. Fearing the potential negative effect of such a move, Marks and his board offered Skinner \$5,000 per year for five years to do little except keep his association with the Company. When the agreement ended, Skinner left the company to found his own with his son Richmond.

The new firm built a large organ for the National Cathedral in Washington, DC in 1937 as well as several other new and many rebuilt instruments. By 1949, Ernest completely retired from the organ business. The organ building business had completely changed and Skinner was decidedly out of favor. Sadly many of his masterpieces were replaced with more fashionable instruments that represented what was in vogue at the time.

Skinner's wife, Mabel died in 1951. He lived on to the age 94, dying in 1960.

Today many of his organs have been or are being painstakingly restored to their former Skinner glory. The Skinner organ in Severance Hall in Cleveland just recently underwent such a transformation. One of the most carefully maintained Skinner organ is at Woolsley Hall at Yale. Today he is recognized as one of the leading organ builders in the United States, fully living up to the epitaph on his gravestone at Woodland Cemetery, "Great American Organ Builder."



Ernest and Mabel Hastings Skinner's wedding photo, 1893

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the Oxford Advertiser, 10 December 1886, compiled by Judge C. F. Whitman of Norway, Maine



The charge at Spottsylvania is called the grand charge of the army. The plan of assault has been made use of in army tactics at West Point for the drill of the cadets. Upton was promoted on the field, but he did not merit half so much as Col. Edwards. Said Gen. Wright when the picked regiments were formed in line of battle: "Colonel Edwards, I give you the place of honor in this charge. Give you one of the best regiments in the whole service as a support. If you get into their works, serve them as you did at Rappahannock Station." This regiment was the noble 6th Maine. Behind it was the 5th Wisconsin, one of the best regiments in the army; and on the right of the 5th Maine was the 121st N. Y. or what was left of it after the battle of the Wilderness.

It is evidently from Gen. Wright's language, when he said, "If you get into their works," that he did not to expect him to do it. He did get into them, however, but across the field over which they went through but about ten rods in distance, and taking but a minute of time half of the regiment were stretched on the ground. With his own hands, he seized a Rebel gun and helped turn it upon the enemy.

A shell burst above his head and a piece of it flew by striking him on his breast, tearing away a part of his clothing, and throwing him to the ground. Unmindful of all else except the success of the charge, he sprang to his feet while he imagined, he felt the blood flowing from his wound which he did not doubt was fatal. He gave his orders as coolly as if nothing had happened. Like the dying Lawrence, he didn't propose to "give up the ship." The second line of works was in our possession, when feeling no loss of strength by the supposed flow of blood, he tore away his shirt to examine the wound, when he saw with joy that he hadn't received a scratch. It had been a hot day and working like a beaver he found himself covered with sweat, if not with blood. In relating this incident to the writer the General said: "When I found I was unhurt, I never felt so well in all my life."

During the 11th of May, the regiment was not actively engaged. The next morning when the 'gray light of morn began to stream through the mists,' Hancock's corps moved rapidly across an open field and struck a sharp angle of the Rebel's works, hoping to turn Lee's right. Our troops rushed impetuously up hill and over the works of the enemy. The Rebels gave way and many prisoners were taken before they could get back to their second line. They were followed up to this position where the fighting became hot and heavy; and the 6th corps was ordered to join in the attack. "Forward the 5th Maine!" Under a severe fire it moved to the right of the right of the famous "salient" or angle the key to the enemy's position which was strengthened by great breastwork of logs and earth. The rain poured in torrents and the men were ordered to lie down in the mud and commence firing. Along the line bullets flew quickly. Fifty thousand men were in conflict. The flash of guns, the rattle of musketry, and the boom of cannon played the part of lightning and thunder in the storm. All through the day until three o'clock the next morning the battle raged. Nearly four hundred rounds per man had been fired. Nothing could live between the fences of the two armies. It was indeed a doomed space. Horses, mules, and the dead were maddled. A large oak standing between the lines was cut down with bullets, its stumps now in the Patent Office at Washington. Other trees were also cut down. At three o'clock a mortar battery got the range at this point and threw its shells into their works. It silenced

their fire and the Rebels fell back while our troops advanced and occupied it. It was a sight to behold! The enemy's dead lay piled up in every conceivable manner.

Upton's command was withdrawn and sent to aid in establishing a new line where there was considerable fighting. It remained in this position till the morning of the 14th, when it was withdrawn, and moved across the river Ny, where a line of skirmishers were thrown out, forming a half circle, the 5th Maine upon the left. Col. Edwards in command of this skirmishing line, seeing that the enemy was preparing for a charge, sent word to brigade headquarters, but no notice was taken of the warning.

Suddenly the Rebel yell was heard, and in battle array three lines deep, rose a large force of the enemy from his concealment and advanced upon our thin skirmish line. Overwhelmed by numbers, after firing a few shots, our troops beat a hasty retreat, Col. Edwards succeeding in getting his command across the river without the loss of a man. Gen. Meade and his staff were in another part of the field and had to "get up and get out" to save being captured.

On the 23rd of May the regiment advanced to the North Anna and on the 30th to Hanover Court House. Frequent skirmishes took place in all their movements. Here five miles of a railroad was destroyed. A Rebel skirmish line was found, supported by a large body of infantry. A Jersey Brigade was ordered by the division commander to drive in their skirmishes. They had seen considerable fighting; and, as their term of service was to expire in two or three days, they protested against the order. It was withdrawn and the 5th Maine directed to do the work. Like hounds from the leash these soldiers sprang forward to obey, and soon the Rebels were put to rout.

On the first of June the regiment marched to Cold Harbor where towards evening a sharp fight occurred with the enemy.

After taking a little rest, Col. Edwards went in search of the wounded as he was wont to do. The regiment had not suffered any loss as the enemy had fired over the heads of the men. When he was leading charged confederates, they were "rascals, but when the fight was over and cries of the wounded resounded in his ears, he went forth with water and food and aid, for the wounded and dying.

As he passed over the field about the break of day, he heard the groans of a Confederate, who was sitting on the ground leaning against a tree, and on going to him he found a Rebel officer with the rank of Lieut. Col. A bullet had passed through a part of the side of his face. Coffee and stimulants were given him, and in a little time he was able to converse. Col. Edwards' brother (Col. Murchinson) is a prisoner in the North. He was captured at Rappahannock Station. After a couple days he died.

Col. Edwards received a letter from his brother-in-law Judge Sheperd of Fayetteville, N.C. It seems that he had written on the margin of a *Portland Transcript* on which was his name that Lieut. Col. Murchinson of the 8th N.C. Regt. had been captured at Cold Harbor. The paper was picked up by one of the enemy after our forces had taken up a new position, and was sent to the widow. The letter of Judge Shepherd was enclosed in a brown paper envelope, directed first to the Army of the Potomac and afterward to "Bethel Heights," as Col. Edwards had been mustered out of the service. It was as follows:

Fayetteville, N.C.,
Sept. 23d, 1864.
Col. C. S. Edwards,
5th Maine Volunteers,
Army of the Potomac,

(Continued on page 9)

AUSTIN ASSOCIATES, P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

The Tax Professionals
Auburn Norway Rumford

To the Board of Directors
Bethel Historical Society P.O. Box 12
Bethel, ME 04217

September 7, 2001

We have reviewed the accompanying statement of financial position of Bethel Historical Society, (a nonprofit organization), as of December 31, 2000, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of Bethel Historical Society.

A review consists principally of inquiries of organization personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an examination in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Austin Associates, P.A.
AUSTIN ASSOCIATES, P.A.
Certified Public Accountants

Two Great Falls Plaza
P.O. Box 3400
Auburn, ME 04212-3400
AUSTIN ASSOCIATES, P.A.
Telephone: 207-783-9111
Telefax: 207-783-9130

Bethel Historical Society
Statement of Financial Position
For The Year Ended December 31, 2000

Exhibit A

<u>Assets</u>	
<u>Current Assets:</u>	
Cash	\$118,001
Certificates of deposit	69,249
Inventory	35,835
Total current assets	<u>223,085</u>
<u>Land, Building and Equipment</u>	728,522
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>318,258</u>
	410,264
<u>Other Assets--Investments--Marketable securities</u>	<u>312,274</u>
Total assets	\$945,623
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>	
<u>Current Liabilities:</u>	
Accounts payable	\$ 1,930
Accrued expenses	1,224
Total current liabilities	<u>3,154</u>
<u>Net Assets:</u>	
Unrestricted	939,424
Temporarily restricted	3,045
Total net assets	<u>942,469</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	\$945,623

Bethel Historical Society
Statement of Activities
For The Year Ended December 31, 2000

Exhibit B

<u>Unrestricted Net Assets:</u>	
Support and Revenue:	
General contributions	\$ 24,418
Grants	1,500
Dues	8,759
Admission and sales income	32,467
Capital campaign income	123,905
Rental income	305
Special event income	8,039
Investment income	24,718
Loss on sale of securities	(2,875)
Unrealized loss on marketable securities	(2,419)
Total unrestricted support and revenue	<u>218,817</u>
Expenses:	
Program services	79,242
Supporting services	40,613
	<u>119,855</u>
Increase in Net Assets	\$98,962

Bethel Historical Society
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
For The Year Ended December 31, 2000

Exhibit C

Unrestricted Net Assets:	
Balance, at beginning of year, as previously stated	\$846,18 6
Prior period adjustment	(5,724)
Balance, at beginning of year, as restated	840,462
Increase in unrestricted net assets	<u>98,962</u>
Balance, at end of year	\$939,424

Bethel Historical Society
Statement of Functional Expenses
For The Year Ended December 31, 2000

Exhibit D

	Program Services	Supporting Services
Advertising	\$ 812	\$ 0
Bank charges	0	452
Bookkeeping expense	0	2,125
Building repairs	975	0
Depreciation	16,554	1,839
Director's expense	0	300
Dues	725	0
Fund raising expenses	0	10,871
Grant expense	519	0
Heat, lights and water	9,438	0
Insurance	8,531	742
Interest	3,358	0
Janitorial services	1,207	0
Merchandise for resale	0	9,763
Miscellaneous	571	7,491
Office supplies and printing	3,521	0
Postage	2,195	244
Professional fees	0	3,750
Salaries	27,902	1,736
Taxes	2,790	0
Telephone	144	1,300
Total expenses	\$79,242	\$40,613

Bethel Historical Society
Statement of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended December 31, 2000

Exhibit E

<u>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</u>	
Increase in net assets	\$ 98,962
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation	18,393
Securities received as a donation	(16,162)
Loss on sale of securities	2,875
Unrealized loss on change in value of marketable securities	2,419
Increase in operating assets--Inventory	(12,562)
Increase in operating liabilities:	
Accounts payable	951
Accrued expenses	30
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>94,906</u>
<u>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</u>	
Capital expenditures	(43,017)
Purchase of securities	(14,774)
Proceeds from sale of securities	38,638
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(19,153)</u>
<u>Cash Flows from Financing Activities--Loan repayments</u>	<u>(96,282)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(96,282)</u>
<u>Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents</u>	<u>(20,529)</u>
<u>Cash and Cash Equivalents, at beginning</u>	<u>138,530</u>
<u>Cash and Cash Equivalents, at end</u>	\$ 118,001

Bethel Historical Society
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2000

NOTE 1: Significant Accounting Policies

Organization's activities:
The Organization is a historical society located in Bethel, Maine.

Basis of presentation:
In 1996, the Organization elected to adopt Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations*. Under SFAS No. 117, the Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: Unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets. In addition, the Organization is required to present a statement of cash flows.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Net assets and revenues, expenses, gains, and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets of the Organization and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Bethel Historical Society
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended December 31, 2000

Unrestricted net assets--Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

Temporarily restricted net assets--Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that may or will be met, either by actions of the Organization and/or the passage of time. When a restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently restricted net assets--Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that they be maintained permanently by the Organization. Generally, the donors of these assets permit the Organization to use all or part of the income earned on any related investments for general or specific purposes.

Cash:

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Organization considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity date of three months or less to be cash or cash equivalents.

Inventories:

Inventories are stated at lower of cost or market value, with cost generally determined on the first-in, first-out method.

Contributions:

Contributions, including unconditional promises to give, are recorded as made. All contributions are available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. Unconditional promises to give, due in the next year, are recorded at their net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give, due in subsequent years, are reported at the present value of their net realizable value, using risk-free interest rates applicable to the years in which the promises are to be received.

Land, building and equipment:

Purchases of property are capitalized at cost. Donations of property and equipment are recorded as support at their estimated fair value. Depreciation is computed on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Minor additions and replacements are treated as expenses of the current unrestricted fund.

Income taxes:

No provision for income taxes has been made due to the Organization's tax exempt status under IRC Section 501(c)(3).

Use of estimates:

The Organization uses estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and the reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Advertising:

The Organization uses advertising to promote its programs among the public it serves. Advertising costs are expensed as incurred. Advertising expense was \$812 for the year ended December 31, 2000.

NOTE 2: Land, Building and Equipment

	<u>Cost</u>
Land and building	\$578,621
Improvements	98,615
Equipment	<u>51,286</u>
	<u>\$728,522</u>

NOTE 3: Investments--Marketable Securities

Investments are stated at market value using specific identification. Cost is the purchase cost of the security or the market value on the date that the security was contributed:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Cash	<u>\$118,001</u>	<u>\$118,001</u>
Certificates of deposit	<u>\$ 69,249</u>	<u>\$ 69,249</u>
Stocks	\$ 74,479	\$110,071
Bonds	203,618	202,203
Total marketable securities	<u>\$278,097</u>	<u>\$312,274</u>

Market value exceeds cost by \$34,177 at December 31, 2000.

NOTE 4: Interest Paid

Interest paid during the year ended December 31, 2000 was \$3,358.

NOTE 5: Prior Period Adjustment

During the year ended December 31, 2000, the correction of an accounting error resulted in a prior period restatement of net assets. This restatement was necessary to correct the market value of marketable securities at January 1, 2000 and resulted in a decrease in net assets of \$5,724.



MEMBER PROFILE: JACK & LUCY NORDAHL

Jack Nordahl was born in Orange, NJ and grew up in Summit, NJ. He graduated from Summit High School and then went to Bucknell University for two years before transferring to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he graduated in 1956. At the age of twelve, he met his future wife when Lucy moved a few blocks away. She was born in Providence, RI, went to St. Timothy's School, and graduated from Wheaton College in Norton, MA in 1955. They were married on February 4, 1956 in Summit, NJ during an ice storm. Jack worked as an electronics engineer on the Livermore Atomic Research Computer at Remington Rand Univac, the first useful, fast, and reliable computer. Following their marriage, Lucy taught kindergarten in Philadelphia. After three years, they moved to Boston and later Lexington, MA. Jack worked in the computer instrumentation and medical electronics fields for various companies and Lucy became a stay-at-home mom while the children were small. They had two girls who died of muscular atrophy. Their middle child, Ellen, followed in her father's footsteps and became an electronics engineer. Their adopted son, John, works in the digital media field. Lucy returned to teaching in the Cambridge, MA public schools, receiving a master's degree from Lesley College in teaching children with learning disabilities. They have two grandchildren.

As a family, they spent summer vacations in New Hampshire and boating to Nantucket and Maine with winters in the Granite and Pine Tree states. In 1979, they bought a farmhouse in East Bethel with a commanding view of the Androscoggin River Intervale. They extensively remodeled the house and retired there in 1993.

Very active in the Society and Life Members since 1989, Lucy serves on the Capital Campaign Committee and Jack assists with computers. He now does most of the Society's computer layout for publications: *The Courier* working with Stan Howe, the website consulting with Randy Bennett, and programs for the House Tour and New Year's Bethel conferring with Susan Herlihy and Jackie VanLeuven. Jack's hobbies include cross country skiing, gardening, boating, computers, and astronomy. Lucy enjoys quilting, cross country skiing, swimming, gardening, canoeing, and reading.

DIARY OF WILLIAM S. HASTINGS

(continued from the last issue)



1937-April 1, Fair and warm. All I can do is chores. 8 cows to milk, 600 chix & 300 hens to tend. Got Uncle John. Shavings. April 2, Clouding up. Chores. Went to hauling wood. Snowed in p.m. 5-6 in. April 3, Snowing. Cleared. Put up load of spuds. Wired in Leslie's [Noyes] house. April 4, Fair & warm. Chores. Put new hole thru brooder house roof for stove pipe. First robin. April 5, Cold & cloudy. Hauled wood. Broke tug & broke dray. Cleaned brooder. Snow is 18" to 2' on level in woods. No bare ground in sight. April 6, Raining. Put up spuds. Wired for Leslie. Snow & ice cover ground. Roads are bad. April 7, Cold & cloudy. Finished wiring two circuits at Leslie's & Austin installed meter & turned on the "juice." Repaired dray. Dad is better. April 8, +33[degrees], Windy. Bob in city with spuds. We hauled wood, cleaned brooder houses, etc. April 9, Cloudy. Snow at night. We hauled wood. Bob hauled birch. April 10, Cloudy & windy. Cleaning brooders & making a wood-burning stove. No bare ground in sight. April 11, Cloudy & cold. Worked on brooders & stove. Got Newt's built. April 12, Clear & warm. Hauling manure to Bean piece on sleds. Very little bare ground on intervale. Geo. & Fred Haines bought Jim Swan place. Chix hatched 237. April 23, Clear & warm. Insured J. H. Swan place. Finished brooder stove. Bob in city. Spuds \$2 per cwt. April 14, Clear & warm. Bob gone on Conservation work. Cleaned hen houses. April 15, Rain. Bob gone to Paris. Wired Noyes barn. Dad is bad again. April 16, Fair & warm. Put up spuds. Sawed wood. April 17, Cloudy. Hauled last of birch from woods. Cleaned brooders. Bob brot (sic) home a fertilizer sower. April 18, Cloudy. Went to Greenwood. April 19, Clear & warm. Sawing wood. Snow is nearly gone in open. Dad is better. Gets out some. April 20, Cloudy and cool, windy. Sawed wood. Got word that Cousin Edward [Hastings of Fryeburg] is in hospital in Portland. April 21, Clear & warm. Finished our wood. Sawed 12 cords for Ceylon. Walker's Field Day. Heard first frog. April 22, Snowing. Wet heavy Nor'easter. Put up spuds, cleaned brooders. Repaired machinery. April 23, Snowing. Same Nor'easter. 8" and still coming. 36 hrs. of storm then cloudy. Sick with a liver spell. April 24, Clear & warm. Snow everywhere. April 25, Clear & warm. Snow going. Surveyed on lot line between 8 & 9. Ruth, Edward, I went to intervale. Muddy! April 26, Clear & warm. Bill & I went to Portland with spuds. \$1.85 per cwt. Visited Cousin Edward at M.G. Hospital. April 27, Clear & warm. Pond clear of ice. April 28, Raining. April 29, Clear & warm. Bob hauled ash to Paris. Lime back. Lime \$6.05 per ton. April 30, +24 [degrees], Clear & warm. Took horses to Ad Thurston for shoeing. Went to Norway in p.m. 2 bones out of my back. Billy goes again June 18. May 1, Fair & warm. Rodney, Billy & I went to burn Hall Hastings' island over above Bethel bridge. Got a good burn & came home down river via canoe. May 2, Fair & warm. Greenwood. Roads are rough but passable. May 3, Cold morning but warmed up & was hot. Got tractor harrow from intervale. Road is frosty & muddy. Plowed & harrowed for peas. In eve. Shot 3 rats with 4 shots. May 4, Clear & hot. Planted peas. 5 lbs. each "World's Record." Used new fert. sewer on top dressing. My back is weak. May 5, +36 [degrees], Cloudy but warm. Top dressed 6 A. Moved range shelters. Leslie got 50 cross breeds. May 6, Clear & warm. Sold 100 7-week chicks to Ammie Brown. 75-3 week old chicks to Clyde Brown. May 7, Rain. Rained hard all day. Put up 110 bu. spuds.

Overhauled potato planter. May 8, Rain. Cloudy. Bob & Dad gone to Portland with load of spuds for Johnson \$1.65 cwt. May 9, Clearing. Butchered. First bobolink. May 16, Clear & warm. Nice day. Greenwood in P.M. Ruth had an awful sore neck. Bone of place. May 17, Clouding up. Ruth & I had treatments at Dr. Swett's. May 18, Cloudy. I'm laying around. In p.m. cruised the swamp lot for pulp. Plenty there. May 19, Raining. D-n the weather! Seeded oats & plowed. Spread super-phosphate. May 20, Pouring hard! We had to go move fertilizer off the horse pasture. River is rising. May 21, Fair & warm. Plowed & harrowed. Got stuck 3 times. Never remember such a spring. Only 3 acres of spuds planted. May 22, Fair & warm. Harrowed in a.m. Bob planting. In P.M. I went to Bethel with butter & eggs. May 23, Clouding up. Ruth's folks came up here. May 24, Cool. Harrowed on "Eph piece." May 25, Clear & cool. Harrowed on "Eph piece." Awful muddy. 9 1/2 A spuds planted. All on "Henry piece." May 26, Cloudy & warm. Hauled gravel 11 day for intervale road. Got it passable. May 27, Clear & warm. Harrowed & plowed. Plowed Dutton's garden & plowed for Jorgen. May 29, Clear & hot. Finished Jorgen's plowing and harrowing. May 30, Clear & hot. Went to cemeteries & to Greenwood. Cows at pasture for first time. Put up electric fence. Works fine. May 31, Hotter'n ever! Harrowed on Eph piece, & home field. Plowed Crow Piece. Bob planting. About 12 acres planted. June 1, Hot & clear. Plowed for Noyes. June 2, Cloudy. Cool. Finished planting for Noyes. Harrowed on Crow Piece. Bob & Gene planting Crow Piece. 14 A planted June 3, Cloudy. Showers in P.M. Dad & Bob went to Portland after fertilizer. Cousin Edward is improving. June 4, Showers. Clearing. Built fence all day. June 5, Cool. Harrowed in A.M. In P.M. we finished planting garden. Other garden came up quick. June 6, Clear & hot. Cruised two timber lots & ran some lines. Ruth went to Greenwood. June 7, Harrowed. Noyes potatoes planted. June 8, Harrowed and spread manure. June 9, Showers in p.m. Finished planting spuds. 18 1/2 Acres. June 10, Rain! Went to G.A. grad. Rodney graduated. June 11, Clear. June 12, June 13, Clear & warm. Went surveying on Haines lot 5R4 on Kimball hill. Spent all day. Shower in P.M. Not much luck finding lines. June 14, Clear. Dressed poultry. Cockerel dress 5 lbs. @ .30 = \$1.50 each. June 15, Plowed & harrowed for Noyes. Ruth gone to Recreational Institute. June 16, Clear & warm. Started peeling on Lot 9R9. Mosquitoes are awful. Bob planted another acre of spuds-19 1/2 in all. June 17, Clear & cool. Cultivated all day. June 18, Raining hard all day. Went to Norway in P.M. Had back fixed. Talked trade for a '37 Chevrolet. June 19, Cloudy, cool. Hoed & cultivated. In P.M. set 500 Howard 17 strawberry plants. Picture "Lloyds of London" in eve. Very good! June 20, Clearing, cool. Pastured young cattle. Norway & ordered 1937 Deluxe Sport Sedan. \$200 for my 1931. \$631 t. June 21, Raining. Went to W. Paris to see Ed Mann about lines. Also saw Emma Day. S. Paris & Norway. June 22, Raining. June 23, Clear, cool. Peeling all day. June 24, Clear & warm. Surveyed for Haines 9 hrs. Bob started haying. June 25, Clear & hot. Surveying. Hard job. Brot (sic) home 1937 Chevrolet Sports Sedan. Slick car. Tax was \$15.75! Ouch! June 26, Cloudy. Surveying. 8 hrs. June 27, Cloudy. Rain. Went to Fryeburg to see Edward. June 28, Rain. Cultivated. Estimated Newton's rent for wiring job. June 29, Cloudy. Peeled all day. June 30, Clearing. Hot! Cultivated & hoe garden in A.M. Went to L. Mills for grain.

(To be continued in the next issue)

Dear sir:

My sister, Mrs. Jane E. Murchison, widow of the late Lt. Col. John R. Murchison of the 8th N.C. Troops, who was wounded at Cold Harbor on the 1st of June and died the 7th of the same month. I will thank you for any information which you may have in reference to his condition while you saw him. Dr. McDonald of the 6th Corps has written to my sister that after the 4th of June when rec'd at the White House, he was not conscious at all. Be pleased to address me at this place.

Respectfully yours, I.G. Shepherd

An answer was written but its letter didn't reach the destination. Another letter was received from the Lieut. Col. brother who was captured in Rappahannock Station. He now lives in New York City. The following letters will be of interest:

New York, April 6th, 1886

Col. C.S. Edwards, Bethel, Maine.

Dear sir:

Hon. J. G. Shepherd of Fayetteville, N.C., has forwarded to me. Your letter written one year ago hasn't reached him. He or I will gratefully appreciate any information on my brother, the late Lt. Col. of 8th N.C. Regt., who fell mortally wounded in battle of Cold Harbor in June 1864.

I am in residence in this city, where any communications will reach me. I am in debt to yourself and other officers for kindness rendered at the time of being captured at Rappahannock Station. Being only released from prison on 25th of July last, my captivity extended through many, many mornings.

H.H. Murchison,

Manchester, NH, July 3, 1866

You will doubtless be surprised Col. Edwards to receive a communication from a stranger in the far south, but a sense of duty prompted me to write and express my gratitude to you for your kind treatment to my ailing husband, Lt. Col. John R. Murchison. And for your kind letters to my brother Judge Shepherd, which was the only satisfactory account I have ever had of his condition after he was wounded.

May that kind Providence, which led you to be kind to my husband, reward you a hundred fold is the prayer of this sorrow stricken widow.

Mrs. I.E. Murchison

(To be continued in the next issue)



Among those at the opening of the "Scenery of the White Mountains" exhibit in July were from left to right, Mary Valentine, Rebecca Kendall, and Jean and Mike Stowell. The exhibit included a variety of paintings, photographs, prints, and maps, several of which had not been previously exhibited.

BOOK REVIEW

***SHE TOOK TO THE WOODS: A BIOGRAPHY AND SELECTED WRITINGS OF LOUISE DICKINSON RICH.* By Alice Arlen. (Camden, Maine: Down East Books, 2000. Pp. 310. Paper. \$16.95)**

Alice Arlen has produced the first biography that has been published of the well-known Maine writer, Louise Dickinson Rich, who was born in Bridgewater, MA in 1903, the oldest child of James H. and Florence Stewart Dickinson. Her father was the publisher of the local newspaper and his wife sold ads, read copy and served as a reporter in the business. Louise attended the local normal school to become a teacher after which she took a position in Lebanon, NH. Here she met John Davis Bacon, whom she married in 1926. They were divorced in 1931. On a trip to the wilds of western Maine, she encountered Ralph Rich and Forest Lodge. Even though she returned to her teaching, she left after a few months for what would become her destiny—the wilds of Maine. She and Ralph created a life together at Forest Lodge that became the subject of several of her books, including the best-selling first book, *We Took to the Woods* which appeared in 1942, followed by *Happy the Land* (1946) and *My Neck of the Woods* (1954). Ralph Rich died in 1944 and she married James Barnett in 1946. This marriage did not endure for long and they were soon separated and divorced in 1947. By the 1950s, she had given up her beloved Forest Lodge for the Maine coast where she spent the rest of her days until the very end of her life. She died in her native state of Massachusetts in 1991, having written 24 books and a number articles, most of which dealt with life in her adopted state.

Alice Arlen has drawn on a large number of sources for this biography which was beautifully packaged by Down East Books. She has dealt with Louise's alcoholism and her other frailties, but one leaves this life study believing that there is much more to know about her. Her relations with other writers are cited by Arlen, but there is little analysis of these connections. In fact, the biography provides extensive quotations of letters and diaries that are only fleetingly placed in context or interpreted as part of the larger picture. The post-Forest Lodge period of Louise's life is short-changed, in this reviewer's opinion, particularly her efforts at combining state and local history with her story-telling in the books written after 1955.

Arlen has provided us with a good sample of particular aspects of her subject's life that need further study. This biography is a good start for those wishing to learn more about her remarkable life, but future researchers will find much more about Rich that needs to be known, analyzed and placed in its proper context. SRH

EDITOR'S CORNER

This issue records the passing of Life Member Barbara D. Brown, who was long the chair of the Society's Membership Committee. We shall certainly miss her enthusiasm for the Society and its many projects and programs. In her memory, her family and friends have established a planting fund as part of the capital campaign to support the acquisition and placement of shrubs and perennials at the Robinson House to honor her many contributions to the Society. Anyone wishing to add to this fund should send a tax deductible gift to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. SRH

2000 Spring and Summer Activities



A caravan of antique automobiles visited the Dr. Moses Mason House.



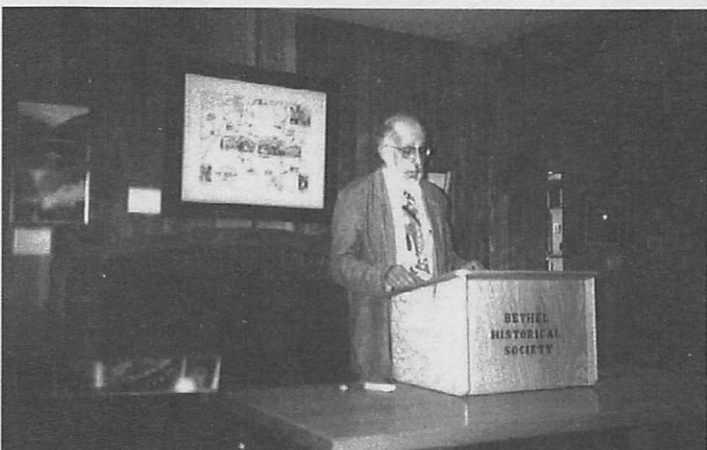
A member of the Ancient Ones discusses tomahawk throwing with visitors at the annual Sudbury Canada Days.



Participants in the Bethel history course took a field trip around the town in April. Here they survey the mineral spring that once attracted visitors to the long demolished Anasagunticook House, which once stood near this spot in Northwest Bethel.



The annual community picnic on July 4 featuring the Portland Brass Quintet attracted its usual large crowd on the grounds of the Dr. Moses Mason House as part of the Regional History Center's special events programming.



Dr. Jerome J. Nadelhaft, professor emeritus at the University of Maine, presents the 9th annual Hall Memorial Lecture as the first event of Sudbury Canada Days. His topic was "The Intersection of Constitutions, Prohibition Laws, and Wife Abuse in 19th Century New England and New York."



James Squires (standing), Donald R. Friary Advance Intern at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center, instructs participants at a museum labeling workshop held at the Society in September.



A new roof is installed on the historic portion of the O'Neil binson House with the support of funds raised by the Society's capital campaign.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As we look back on our nearly thirty-five years of existence, we must always be conscious of what a large role volunteers have played in moving the Society from a handful of eager historical adherents to the many hundreds we are blessed with today. Volunteers continue to be absolutely essential to our operations. In fact, as we progress more volunteers will be necessary to ensure the success of our programs and activities.

Voluntary help allows the Society to continue to be among the finest historical societies in Northern New England. So say "yes" when asked to help or call or stop in the office to volunteer for a broad spectrum of committees. We also need assistance with the gardens and grounds, programs, research library, fund-raising, New Year's Bethel, special events, museum guiding and a host of other activities. Become involved and don't leave it all to a few. If we all do our part, everyone will have a sense of achievement without becoming overburdened. Thanks are due to all who volunteer and I trust others will come forward to join our growing ranks in the coming months.

Alvin Barth, Jr.

IN MEMORIAM

Died, 19 June 2000, Lyman Holman, Dixfield, Senior Member

Died 16 July 2000, Edith Coolidge, Bethel, Senior Member

Died 29 July 2000, Barbara L. Wheeler, Senior Member

Died 22 August 2000, Barbara D. Brown, Bethel, Life Member

Died 13 September 2000, Sharon Bennett, Newry, Senior Member

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Membership Application*

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- Free admission to the period house museum.
- A 10% discount on purchases of \$10 or more from the Society's Museum Shop
- Special Research Library privileges, including reduced photocopying fees
- Subscription to the Society's quarterly, *The Courier*
- Preferred rate for exhibit hall/meeting room rental
- Voting rights in the Society
- Reduced course fees
- Special invitations to Society events

Note: New memberships activated after July 1 include that calendar year, plus the following year.

- ___ Student (under 18 years) - \$3
- ___ Senior (over 55 years) - \$5
- ___ Sustaining (individual) - \$10
- ___ Contributing - \$20
- ___ Patron - \$30
- ___ Benefactor - \$40

- ___ Life over 55 years (individual) - \$100
- ___ Life over 55 years (couple) - \$150
- ___ Life 55 and under (individual) - \$200
- ___ Life 55 and under (couple) - \$250
- ___ Individual preference (any amount over \$10)
- ___ Corporate/Business - \$50

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Street

P.O. Box

Town/City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Phone () _____ e-mail _____

Please mail with your remittance to the Bethel Historical Society, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012

Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all comments and inquiries to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Publications, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. Telephone (207) 824-2908 or 1-800-824-2910. FAX (207) 824-0882
E-Mail: info@bethelhistorical.org ISSN0749-9208

The Bethel Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Bethel, ME 04217-0012

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
BETHEL, MAINE
04217

NEW IN THE MUSEUM SHOP*

Lucy Eames Sampler Counted Cross-Stitch Kit. Available at last -- a wonderful reproduction of an 1841 sampler in the Society's collections. Colors have been carefully selected to closely match those originally chosen by Lucy Russell Eames (1827-1849) of North Bethel. Design size is 12 1/8 x 13 1/4 inches. Kit includes all materials needed. \$25.95

OLD-FASHIONED FOLK TOYS

Packaged with historical information and instructions.

Ring Knitter. Includes yarn, wooden needle, wooden ring and directions. \$6.00

Potholder Loom. Popular 20th century craft kit includes loom, hook, instructions, and enough loops to make 6 potholders. \$8.00

Jr. Pick-Up Sticks. Smaller version of this popular game, designed for younger hands. Features a wooden box with a sliding lid. \$4.00

Metal Kazoo. Popular folk instrument that anyone can play. \$3.50

BOOKS

The Rail Lines of Northern New England. Packed with over 100 vintage and current photos and dozens of maps, this authoritative volume tells the story of every common carrier line that ever operated in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. 414 pp., paper. \$23.95

To order: Send check or money order to the Bethel Historical Society, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. Members may deduct 10% from prices given on orders of \$10 or more. Shipments to Maine addresses should include 5% sales tax. Shipping fees: under \$10 = \$1.50; \$10 to \$19.99 = \$3.00; \$20 and over = \$4.00

*Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a copy of our complete catalog!

PLEASE HELP US KEEP THE COURIER COMING TO
YOU BY TELLING US WHEN YOU MOVE OR CHANGE
YOUR ADDRESS!

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
www.bethelhistorical.org

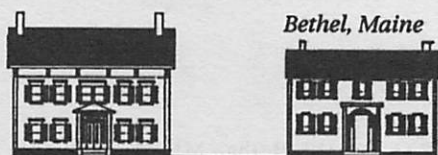
SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Alvin Barth, President; Arlan Jodrey, Vice President; Allen Cressy, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Susan Herlihy, Treasurer; Trustees: Walter Hatch, John Head, Lois Kilroy, Jaquelyn VanLeuven, Priscella Walker

CORPORATE/BUSINESS MEMBERS

Austin Associates, P.A., C.P.A.s ~ Alpine Meadow Haus ~ The Bethel Citizen ~ Bethel Furniture Stock, Inc. ~ The Bethel Inn & Country Club ~ Bethel Spa Motel & Ruthie's ~ Bethel Station Chiropractic ~ Bethel Station LP ~ Brooks Bros. Inc. ~ The Chapman Inn ~ R. A. Douglass, Inc. ~ Goodwin's Insurance ~ Hutchins Jewelers ~ Irving Oil Corporation ~ Java House ~ J. T. Keith Construction ~ Key Bank ~ Mahoosuc Realty, Inc. ~ The Maine Press ~ Mead Paper Division ~ Moore Recycling Associates ~ Mothers Restaurant ~ Mountain Mann Jewelers ~ Northeast Bank FSB ~ Norway Savings Bank ~ NTL Institute ~ Oxford Telecom ~ Pat's Pizza ~ Perham's of West Paris ~ Pooh Corner Farm ~ The River Restaurant & Pub ~ River View Resort ~ The Inn at the Rostay ~ Smith and Town Printers ~ Stony Brook Recreation ~ Sudbury Inn ~ Sunday River Brewing Company ~ Sunda River Inn & Cross Country Center ~ Sunday River Ski Resort ~ S. Timberlake Co. ~ Union Water Power Co. ~ The Village Sampler ~ Western Maine Insurance Service, Inc. ~ Western Maine Supply ~ Douglass & Robin Zinchuk & Family

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER